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Ministry of Forests

AGREEMENT MEANS MORE JOBS FOR UCLUELET

UCLUELET – An agreement between the provincial government and Weyerhaeuser Co. Ltd. to remove more than 8,700 hectares of Crown land from the company's Tree Farm Licence 44 will provide economic growth and more jobs for Ucluelet, Forests Minister Michael de Jong announced today.

The area, known as the Ucluelet Working Circle, will remain part of the South Island forest district. The Forests Minister will make a final decision later this year on timber allocation and how the area, between Barkley Sound and Clayoquot Sound, will be managed.

"Our government is committed to working with communities to make sure forest policies and practices meet the needs of local workers and families," de Jong said. "This agreement will help generate the jobs that have long been promised the Ucluelet community to offset the effects of reduced harvests in Clayoquot Sound."

The Ucluelet Economic Development Corp., which is the economic arm of the District of Ucluelet, was awarded a 75,000-cubic-metre timber sale licence earlier this year for a three-year term as an interim measure. The removal of the working circle from Tree Farm Licence 44 creates longer-term opportunity for the Ucluelet region.

"This is exciting news for Ucluelet: it allows us to move towards a strong and sustainable economy," said District of Ucluelet Mayor Dianne St. Jacques. "The Ministry of Forests and Weyerhaeuser are providing us with the tools necessary to pursue forest tenure possibilities with our partners, the Ucluelet First Nation and the Toquaht First Nation."

As part of the removal agreement, Weyerhaeuser will complete its silviculture obligations in the Ucluelet Working Circle. The forest company will also upgrade portions of Maggie Lake Road and other roads to standards that will improve access to the Toquaht Indian Reserve, the popular Toquart Recreation site and the Salmon Beach properties.

In turn, the Ministry of Forests will support Weyerhaeuser's application to the Land Reserve Commission to remove more than 400 hectares of private land on the Ucluelet peninsula from the Forest Land Reserve. Development of this land will mean economic diversification, more jobs and an increase in tax revenues for the District of Ucluelet.

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